

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A ligand that specifically binds to the GHRH receptor of SEQ ID NO:4.
2. (Original) A nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:6.
3. (Currently amended) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, a biologically active fragment thereof, or a polypeptide that differs from SEQ ID NO:2 by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions yet retains its ability to stimulate [stimulating] second messenger signaling at the cloned chicken GHRH receptor.
4. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 3 wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
5. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
6. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 5 wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
7. (Currently Amended) A chicken GHRH receptor comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or an amino acid sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO:5 by 1-3 conservative amino acid substitutions.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) A method of enhancing feed utilization in an avian species comprising the step of administering a GHRH analog or derivative of said species wherein the analog or derivative is an agonist or antagonist of the GHRH receptor of SEQ ID NO:4.
10. (Original) A method of enhancing the growth and production of lean muscle mass in an avian species comprising the step of administering a GHRH analog or derivative to said species wherein the analog or derivative is an agonist or antagonist of the GHRH receptor of SEQ ID NO:4.

11. (Original) A method of enhancing feed utilization in an avian species comprising the step of administering a GHRH polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

12. (Original) A method of enhancing the growth and production of lean muscle mass in an avian species comprising the step of administering a GHRH polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

13. (Original) A method of enhancing feed utilization in an avian species comprising the step of administering a compound that up-regulates the expression of the GHRH receptor of SEQ ID NO:4.

14. (Original) A ligand that interacts with the GHRH receptor of SEQ ID NO:4 and stimulates second messenger signaling at the chicken GHRH receptor.

15. (Previously amended) A nucleic acid sequence encoding the chicken GHRH receptor, said sequence comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

16. (Previously amended) A transgenic avian species comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the protein of claim 3.

17. (Previously amended) A transgenic avian species comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the protein of claim 7.